

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-13, 15-18, 20-31, 33-62, 66, 68, 73, 79, 80, 90 and 96-113 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 14, wherein the first communication mode is a full-rate communication mode and the second communication mode is a half-rate communication mode.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 14, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein a first system uses the first communication scheme, wherein the method enables interoperation between the first system and a second system, wherein the second system uses a second communication scheme.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 65, wherein the ~~dropped~~ discarded portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises fixed codebook indices and wherein generating replacement signal-coding parameters comprises randomly generating replacement fixed codebook indices.

7-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a request to transmit a frame using a second communication mode to reduce bit rate during transmission of said frame, wherein the frame comprises signal-coding parameters representative of a sound signal and wherein the frame is encoded in accordance with a first communication mode;

in response to the request, ~~dropping-discarding~~ a portion of the signal-coding parameters in said frame and keeping remaining signal-coding parameters unchanged in said frame to enable transmission of the frame using the second communication mode; and

inserting information into the frame, wherein the information indicates to a receiver that the frame is encoded in accordance with a particular communication mode that involves ~~dropping-discarding~~ the portion of the signal-coding parameters and keeping the remaining signal-coding parameters unchanged, and wherein the information enables the receiver to process the frame and obtain, from the frame as transmitted in accordance with the second communication mode, a version of the frame encoded in accordance with the first communication mode.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system comprising a first station and a second station; said first station comprising:

means for receiving a request to transmit a frame using a second communication mode of a first communication scheme to reduce bit rate during transmission of said frame, wherein the frame comprises signal-coding parameters representative of a sound signal and wherein the frame is encoded in accordance with a first communication mode of the first communication scheme,

means for ~~dropping discarding~~, in response to said request, a first portion of the signal-coding parameters in said frame and keeping a second portion of the signal-coding parameters unchanged in said frame to enable transmission of the frame using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme,

means for inserting information into the frame, wherein the information indicates that the frame is encoded in accordance with a particular communication mode of the first communication scheme that involves ~~dropping-discarding~~ the first portion of the signal-coding parameters and keeping the second portion of the signal-coding parameters unchanged, and

means for transmitting the frame using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme;

said second station comprising:

means for receiving the transmitted frame, wherein the transmitted frame comprises the information and ~~a~~ the second portion of the signal-coding parameters,

means for generating, in response to said information, replacement signal-coding parameters to replace said first portion of the signal-coding parameters,

means for inserting the generated replacement signal-coding parameters into the received frame to enable further transmission of the frame in accordance with a communication mode of a second communication scheme, and

means for transmitting the frame in accordance with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

20-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

means for receiving a request to transmit a frame using a second communication mode to reduce bit rate during transmission of said frame, wherein the frame comprises signal-coding parameters representative of a sound signal and wherein the frame is encoded in accordance with a first communication mode;

means for ~~dropping-discarding~~ a portion of the signal-coding parameters in said frame and keeping remaining signal-coding parameters unchanged in said frame to enable transmission of the frame using the second communication mode; and

means for inserting information into the frame, wherein the information indicates to a receiver that the frame is encoded in accordance with a particular communication mode that involves ~~dropping-discarding~~ the portion of the signal-coding parameters and keeping the

remaining signal-coding parameters unchanged, and wherein the information enables the receiver to process the frame and obtain, from the frame as transmitted in accordance with the second communication mode, a version of the frame encoded in accordance with the first communication mode.

33-62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 14, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

64. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 14, wherein the ~~dropped~~ discarded portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises fixed codebook indices.

65. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 63, further comprising transmitting the frame using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme from a first device to a second device; receiving the transmitted frame at the second device; generating, by the second device in response to the information in the received frame, replacement signal-coding parameters to replace the ~~dropped-discarded~~ portion of the signal-coding parameters; inserting, by the second device, the generated replacement signal-coding parameters into the received frame to enable further transmission of the frame in accordance with the communication mode of the second communication scheme; and further transmitting the frame using the communication mode of the second communication scheme from the second device to a third device.

66. (Canceled)

67. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 14, further comprising an

initial step of encoding the sound signal in accordance with the first communication mode of the first communication scheme.

68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 32, further comprising means for encoding the sound signal in accordance with a first communication mode of the first communication scheme that is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme; and

means for transmitting the frame using a second communication mode of the first communication scheme that is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

70. (Currently Amended) The device as defined in claim 32, wherein the ~~dropped~~ discarded portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises fixed codebook indices.

71. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 32, wherein the request is to transmit the frame using a half-rate communication mode.

72. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 32, wherein the device is a code division multiple access 2000 (CDMA2000) coder using a variable bitrate wideband (VBR-WB) codec.

73. (Canceled)

74. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 32, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, the device further comprising means for transmitting the frame using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme, wherein the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme.

75. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

means for receiving a frame using a second communication mode, wherein the frame comprises information and a second portion of signal-coding parameters, wherein the information indicates that the frame is encoded in accordance with a particular communication mode ~~that involves dropping a first portion of the signal-coding parameters~~ instead of a first communication mode to reduce bit rate during transmission of said frame, wherein the particular communication mode involves dropping a first portion of the signal-coding parameters and keeping a second portion of the signal-coding parameters unchanged;

means for generating, in response to said information, replacement signal-coding parameters to replace the first portion of the signal-coding parameters ~~dropped-discarded~~ to reduce the bit rate during transmission of the frame; and

means for inserting the generated replacement signal-coding parameters into the received frame to enable further transmission of the frame in accordance with the first communication mode.

76. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 75, wherein the means for generating replacement signal-coding parameters is further for randomly generating the replacement signal-coding parameters.

77. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 76, wherein:

the randomly generated replacement signal-coding parameters comprise randomly generated replacement fixed codebook indices.

78. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 75, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, the device further comprising means for transmitting the frame using a communication mode of a second communication scheme that is compatible with the first communication mode of the first communication scheme.

79. (Canceled)

80. (Canceled)

81. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a frame using a second communication mode, wherein the frame comprises information and a second portion of signal-coding parameters, wherein the information indicates that the frame is encoded in accordance with a particular communication mode ~~that involves dropping a first portion of the signal-coding parameters~~ instead of a first communication mode to reduce bit rate during transmission of said frame, wherein the particular communication mode involves dropping a first portion of the signal-coding parameters and keeping a second portion of the signal-coding parameters unchanged;

in response to said information, generating replacement signal-coding parameters to replace the first portion of the signal-coding parameters ~~dropped-discarded~~ to reduce the bit rate during transmission of the frame; and

inserting the generated replacement signal-coding parameters into the received frame to enable further transmission of the frame in accordance with the first communication mode.

82. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 81, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

83. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 82, further comprising further transmitting the frame using the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

84. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 83, further comprising receiving the frame and decoding the sound signal using the second portion of the signal-coding parameters and the generated replacement signal-coding parameters.

85. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

an input configured to receive a request to transmit a frame using a second communication mode to reduce bit rate during transmission of said frame, wherein the frame comprises signal-coding parameters representative of a sound signal and wherein the frame is encoded in accordance with a first communication mode; and

a processing module configured to ~~drop-discard~~ a portion of the signal-coding parameters in said frame and to keep remaining signal-coding parameters unchanged in said frame to enable transmission of the frame using the second communication mode, and wherein the processing module is further configured to insert information into the frame, wherein the information indicates to a receiver that the frame is encoded in accordance with a particular communication mode that involves ~~dropping-discarding~~ the portion of the signal-coding parameters and keeping the remaining signal-coding parameters unchanged, and wherein the information enables the receiver to process the frame and obtain, from the frame as transmitted in accordance with the second communication mode, a version of the frame encoded in accordance with the first communication mode.

86. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 85, further comprising: an encoder configured to encode the sound signal in accordance with a first communication mode of the first communication scheme that is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme; and

a transmitter configured to transmit the frame using a second communication mode of the first communication scheme that is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

87. (Currently Amended) The device as defined in claim 85, wherein the ~~dropped~~ discarded portion of the signal-coding parameters comprises fixed codebook indices.

88. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 85, wherein the request is to transmit the frame using a half-rate communication mode.

89. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 85, wherein the device is a code division multiple access 2000 (CDMA2000) coder using a variable bitrate wideband (VBR-WB) codec.

90. (Canceled)

91. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 85, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, the device further comprising a transmitter configured to transmit the frame using the second communication mode of the first communication scheme, wherein the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme.

92. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a receiver configured to receive a frame using a second communication mode, wherein the frame comprises information and a second portion of signal-coding parameters, wherein the information indicates that the frame is encoded in accordance with a particular communication mode ~~that involves dropping a first portion of the signal-coding parameters~~ instead of a first communication mode to reduce bit rate during transmission of said frame, wherein the particular communication mode involves dropping a first portion of the signal-coding parameters and keeping the second portion of the signal-coding parameters unchanged;

a processing module configured to generate, in response to said information, replacement signal-coding parameters to replace the first portion of the signal-coding parameters ~~dropped-discarded~~ to reduce the bit rate during transmission of the frame and to insert the generated replacement signal-coding parameters into the received frame to enable further transmission of the frame in accordance with the first communication mode.

93. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 92, wherein the processing module is further arranged to randomly generate the replacement signal-coding parameters.

94. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 93, wherein the randomly generated replacement signal-coding parameters comprise randomly generated replacement fixed codebook indices.

95. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 92, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, the device further comprising a transmitter configured to further transmit the frame using a communication mode of a second communication scheme that is compatible with the first communication mode of the first communication scheme.

96-113. (Canceled)

114. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 3, wherein the first system is a code division multiple access 2000 (CDMA2000) system using a variable bitrate wideband (VBR-WB) codec and the second communication system is a third generation partnership project (3GPP) system using an adaptive multi-rate-wideband (AMR-WB) codec.

115. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 3, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of the second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

116. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 14, wherein the particular communication mode comprises a signaling half rate communication mode or an interoperable half rate communication mode.

117. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 85, wherein the first communication mode is a full-rate communication mode and the second communication mode is a half-rate communication mode.

118. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 85, wherein the particular communication mode comprises a signaling half rate communication mode or an interoperable half rate communication mode.

119. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 85, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

120. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 85, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein the device comprises a first device within a first system that uses the first communication scheme, wherein the device is configured to communicate with a second device via the first system and a second system, wherein the second system uses a second communication scheme.

121. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 120, wherein the first system is a code division multiple access 2000 (CDMA2000) system using a variable bitrate wideband (VBR-WB) codec and the second communication system is a third generation partnership project (3GPP) system using an adaptive multi-rate-wideband (AMR-WB) codec.

122. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 120, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

123. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 32, wherein the first communication mode is a full-rate communication mode and the second communication

mode is a half-rate communication mode.

124. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 32, wherein the particular communication mode comprises a signaling half rate communication mode or an interoperable half rate communication mode.

125. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 32, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

126. (Currently Amended) The device as defined in claim 32, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein the device comprises a first device within a first system that uses the first communication scheme, wherein the device is configured to communicate with a second device via the first system and a second system, wherein the second system uses a second communication scheme, wherein the first system is a code division multiple access 2000 (CDMA2000) system using a variable bitrate wideband (VBR-WB) codec and the second communication system is a third generation partnership project (3GPP) system using an adaptive multi-rate-wideband (AMR-WB) codec, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of ~~a~~the second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

127. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 81, wherein the first communication mode is a full-rate communication mode and the second communication mode is a half-rate communication mode.

128. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 81, wherein the particular communication mode comprises a signaling half rate communication mode or an interoperable half rate communication mode.

129. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 81, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein a first system uses the first communication scheme, wherein the method enables interoperation between the first system and a second system, wherein the second system uses a second communication scheme.

130. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 129, wherein the first system is a code division multiple access 2000 (CDMA2000) system using a variable bitrate wideband (VBR-WB) codec and the second communication system is a third generation partnership project (3GPP) system using an adaptive multi-rate-wideband (AMR-WB) codec.

131. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 129, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of the second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

132. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 92, wherein the first communication mode is a full-rate communication mode and the second communication mode is a half-rate communication mode.

133. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 92, wherein the particular communication mode comprises a signaling half rate communication mode or an interoperable half rate communication mode.

134. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 92, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication

scheme, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

135. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 92, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein the device is configured to receive first communications via a first system and to transmit second communications via a second system, wherein the first system uses the first communication scheme and the second system uses a second communication scheme.

136. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 135, wherein the first system is a code division multiple access 2000 (CDMA2000) system using a variable bitrate wideband (VBR-WB) codec and the second communication system is a third generation partnership project (3GPP) system using an adaptive multi-rate-wideband (AMR-WB) codec.

137. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 135, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

138. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 75, wherein the first communication mode is a full-rate communication mode and the second communication mode is a half-rate communication mode.

139. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 75, wherein the particular communication mode comprises a signaling half rate communication mode or an interoperable half rate communication mode.

140. (Previously Presented) The device as defined in claim 75, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

141. (Currently Amended) The device as defined in claim 75, wherein the first communication mode and the second communication mode are for a first communication scheme, wherein the device is configured to receive first communications via a first system and to transmit second communications via a second system, wherein the first system uses the first communication scheme and the second system uses a second communication scheme, wherein the first system is a code division multiple access 2000 (CDMA2000) system using a variable bitrate wideband (VBR-WB) codec and the second communication system is a third generation partnership project (3GPP) system using an adaptive multi-rate-wideband (AMR-WB) codec, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of ~~a~~the second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme.

142. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
receiving a frame using a second communication mode of a first communication scheme, wherein the frame comprises information and a second portion of signal-coding parameters, wherein the information indicates that the frame is encoded in accordance with a particular communication mode that involves dropping a first portion of the signal-coding parameters instead of a first communication mode of the first communication scheme to reduce bit rate during transmission of said frame, wherein the particular communication mode comprises a signaling half rate communication mode or an interoperable half rate communication mode, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is a full-rate communication mode and the second communication mode of the first

communication scheme is a half-rate communication mode;

in response to said information, generating replacement signal-coding parameters to replace the first portion of the signal-coding parameters dropped to reduce the bit rate during transmission of the frame;

inserting the generated replacement signal-coding parameters into the received frame to enable further transmission of the frame in accordance with the first communication mode of the first communication, wherein the first communication mode of the first communication scheme is interoperable with a communication mode of a second communication scheme and the second communication mode of the first communication scheme is not interoperable with the communication mode of the second communication scheme; and

further transmitting the frame using the communication mode of the second communication scheme, wherein a first system uses the first communication scheme and a second system uses the second communication scheme, wherein the method enables interoperation between the first system and the second system, wherein the first system is a code division multiple access 2000 (CDMA2000) system using a variable bitrate wideband (VBR-WB) codec and the second communication system is a third generation partnership project (3GPP) system using an adaptive multi-rate-wideband (AMR-WB) codec.